TALK OF THE TOWN

A roundup of neighborhood highlights and sidelights

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Broadcast news

You say you missed this month's issue of Amateur Radio magazine? Then you also missed Holly Oak resident Jon Zaimes, who was featured on its cover.

For Zaimes, an assistant news editor at The News Journal, appearing on the cover of the 50,000-circulation national magazine was the latest in a list of radio kudos.

"I usually place in the top 10 in national amateur radio competitions," the Hilltop Manor resident said of his 31-year hobby. "And I've participated in several international competitions."

Zaimes said competition scores are based on the number of exchanges and locales of connections radio operators make via Morse code and voice link. He's made connections — and friendships — with fellow ham operators from London and Brazil.

"It's a fun hobby," he said. "There's nothing quite like it. Even with the advent of computers and the Internet, ham radio is unique.

"In fact, many of the younger ham buffs got their beginnings in the hobby through computers. We don't look at it as competition — just another technical hobby."